

OUTGOING MESSAGE

25X1

Approved For Release 2005/04/21 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100040005-9

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COL ACP TOG TPE MRO TRI

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CLASSIFICATION

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CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/WHIZ

CIA/OCI/WHIZ 740403

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING
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INVOLVED

ITEM #: 2

DATE: 3 APRIL 1974

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PAPER CALLS FOR RE-EXAMINATION OF TIES TO USSR

A WEST GERMAN NEWS SERVICE HAS QUOTED CAIRO'S AL-AHRAM TODAY AS CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "NEW BASIS" FOR EGYPTIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. THE EGYPTIAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP TREATY, AL-AHRAM ALLEGEDLY SAID, IS NO LONGER "SUFFICIENT" TO GUARANTEE A FLOURISHING FRIENDSHIP OR TO KEEP IT FREE FROM "IMPURITIES." THE ARTICLE STRESSES THAT CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP WITH THE USSR REMAINS A STRATEGIC CONSIDERATION FOR EGYPT AND DENIES THAT RIFTS HAVE OPENED, BUT IT NOTES THAT GLOBAL CHANGES OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS HAVE NECESSITATED A NEW STARTING POINT FOR THE FRIENDSHIP.

WE DO NOT YET HAVE A TEXT OF THE AL-AHRAM ARTICLE AND, WHILE

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THE WEST GERMAN DESPATCH PROBABLY ACCURATELY REFLECTS ITS CHIEF IMPORT. IT IS VAGUELY ENOUGH WORDED TO ALLOW FOR DIFFERING INTERPRETATIONS. THE STATEMENT THAT THE FRIENDSHIP TREATY IS NO LONGER "SUFFICIENT," FOR INSTANCE, WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT THE EGYPTIANS ARE LOOKING FOR MORE RATHER THAN LESS FROM MOSCOW--A FIRMER COMMITMENT, PERHAPS, ON MILITARY AID RATHER THAN AN ABROGATION OF THE TREATY.

MOVES IN THE DIRECTION OF CLOSER TIES TO THE SOVIETS, HOWEVER, EVEN TO INSURE MILITARY ASSISTANCE, HAVE CLEARLY NOT BEEN THE EGYPTIAN PRACTICE OF LATE. PRESIDENT SADAT HAS, SINCE THE WAR, AND THE REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE US, SHOWN AN INCREASED READINESS TO RISK EGYPT'S CRITICAL MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH MOSCOW IN ORDER TO MOVE AWAY FROM A CLOSE POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIETS.

4 AT THE SAME TIME, IT WOULD BE UNCHARACTERISTIC OF SADAT TO 3 ABROGATE THE TREATY OUTRIGHT; HE HAS EMPHASIZED REPEATEDLY THAT 2 EGYPT SEEKS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL STATES. IF, AS SEEMS LIKELY, 1 THE AL AHRAM ARTICLE IS A PORTENT OF THINGS TO COME IN SADAT'S ■

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SPEECH TONIGHT, THE PRESIDENT WILL PROBABLY HANDLE THE ISSUE IN A MANNER DESIGNED BOTH TO SOFTEN THE EMBARRASSMENT TO MOSCOW AND, SADAT MIGHT HOPE, TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE SOVIETS TO CONTINUE MILITARY AID. HE COULD, FOR INSTANCE, CALL FOR A RENEgotiation OF THE TREATY FOR REASONS THAT HE COULD LEAVE DELIBERATELY VAGUE AND INTERPRETABLE IN A RELATIVELY FAVORABLE LIGHT.

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USING HIS FAVORITE THEME OF EGYPT'S DESIRE FOR EQUITABLE RELATIONS WITH ALL STATES AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS, HE COULD POINT OUT THAT ~~NO~~ SUCH TREATY EXISTS WITH THE US AND THAT THE "NEW INTERNATIONAL SITUATION" THUS NECESSitates SOME READJUSTMENT OF THE TREATY WITH MOSCOW. HOWEVER NICELY PHRASED, THE IMPACT OF ANY EGYPTIAN-INITIATED CHANGE IN THE TREATY WILL NOT BE LOST ON MOSCOW.

4 THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT PUBLICLY MENTIONED THE UPCOMING SPEECH BY SADAT. SINCE MOSCOW HAS RECENTLY BEEN OPENLY CRITICAL OF SADAT'S POST-WAR POLICIES, IT MAY BE EXPECTING THE WORST. ALTHOUGH MOSCOW HAS BEEN TRYING TO FURTHER CONSOLIDATE ITS RELATIONS

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WITH BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS AS THE MOSCOW-CAIRO CONNECTION HAS
DETERIORATED, THE SOVIETS ARE SURE TO TRY TO SALVAGE WHAT THEY
CAN OUT OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH CAIRO. E2 IMPDET-A

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: MEA DIV, NIO

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